

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ACTION SUMMARY
Thursday, July 9, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Chambers
2101 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lawson. Board Members present: Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley. Director Engellenner, absent. Staff: Deputy Chief Eastman, Board Clerk Tilson, General Counsel Chavez.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

METRO CABLE 14 ANNOUNCEMENT

The open session Meeting is videotaped for cablecast on Metro Cable 14. Replay on Saturday, July 11 at 1:00 PM and Monday, July 13 at 6:00 PM on Channel 14; Webcast at www.sacmetro cable.tv. A VHS copy is also available for checkout from any library branch.

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN
DISTRICT JURISDICTION INCLUDING ITEMS ON OR NOT ON THE AGENDA**

To be considered at the end of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board Meeting Action Summary—June 25, 2009

- **Board Action:**
Granados/Kelly—approve the Consent Agenda. ROLL CALL: Clark, Goold, Granados, Kelly, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley, AYE. Director Jones, abstained. Director Engellenner, absent. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM(S):**1. Resolution—Industrial Disability Retirement –
Fire Captain Michael Castagnola—(Eastman)**

- **Board Action:**

Kelly/Goold—tabled to the next meeting. ROLL CALL: Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley, AYE. Director Engellenner, absent. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION ITEM(S): None.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT—(Lawson)

- Reported on the June 27th meeting at Station 32 regarding the closure of Station 33, with approximately 12 constituents present. Thanked Director Trujillo and Director Clark for attending, and Fire Marshal Stewart and Deputy Chief Miller for addressing the questions. The constituents had an opportunity to air their concerns. The closure was discussed along with the commitments made by the administration including the 4th of July weekend. He requested a report on the number of calls received at the station during that period.

Mr. Hillmann has asked to comment at the end of the meeting.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT—(Deputy Chief Eastman)

- Captain Dupray is monitoring the events at the Capitol for news on Proposition 1A (2004).
- Public Information Officer Christian Pebbles completed a public service announcement on drowning.

- **OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT –**

Report by Deputy Chief Geoff Miller:

Fire Incidents –

- 8 working structure fires and 83 vegetation fires since the last Board meeting.

EMS –

- 2,008 medical aid calls with 1,255 transports.

4th of July –

Not as busy as expected with a total of 206 incidents. 117 of those were medical aid and 34 fire-related. Station 33 was staffed on July 2, 3 and 4 and ran 5 calls on the 4th with no calls on the 2nd or 3rd.

Community Meeting @ Station 32 regarding Station 33 –

Briefed the constituents on the current economic factors affecting the entire country and our District. The community still would like their fire station to remain open. Explained the coverage and confirmed staffing on red flag days.

Emergency Response Impact –

Met with a representative of the Sheriff's Department regarding impact on first responders when we need Sheriff's assistance. Suffering a dramatic reduction in staff – sounds like 24/12 two-person cars handling the whole county.

Regional Training –

Training divisions from Metro, Sacramento City, West Sacramento, Cosumnes, and Folsom met to start planning better ways of working more efficiently together.

Good Deeds –

- Fire Camp is three-quarters complete with the final day tomorrow. Thanked all who volunteered to assist and donated to support the campers.
- Two recent retirees: Engineer Dan Little on July 7 and Captain Bill Lobsitz today.

• SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION REPORT –

Report by Deputy Chief Jim Eastman:

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Fire Camp – last day tomorrow. Stop by and visit.
- Blight Busters event at the Hillsdale Mobile Home Park. There were only two working smoke alarms out of 31 inspections.
- Life Jacket program – Many people participated last weekend. Loaned out 1,500 vests with only 200 not returned.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

- Seven public displays for fireworks were completed on July 3rd and 4th with no fire event occurring in our District.
- Participated with the City of Rancho Cordova in their 4th of July Celebration and a car seat installation event.

In response to Board President Lawson, Chief Eastman will check on the revenue received for fireworks.

FACILITIES

- Facilities Manager Jim Teich took advantage of an early-out option and accepted an assignment in Saudi Arabia.
- Station 29 has been completed.

FLEET

- Med vault installation is almost complete.

TECHNICAL SERVICES**Communications**

- VHF radio process 90% complete.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT—(Joe Chavez)

- Regarding the June 27th public forum on the Station 33 closure, a copy of the District's budgets for 2008 and 2009 were mailed at the request of a constituent.
- He referred to his memo sent to the Board regarding the annual Sacramento County Grand Jury report issued on June 30, 2009. A portion of the report addressed issues related to the criteria by which employees of the Sacramento Fire Department and the District received educational incentives. He and Fire Chief Mette met with members of the Grand Jury who were investigating this matter last year. The results of the meeting reflected favorably on this District in the Final Report for the corrective actions taken relative to the five District employees who were involved in claiming college degrees from unaccredited providers to receive educational incentives. This is a public document available on the Grand Jury's website.

The report contained two recommendations indicating that (1) steps have been taken by both departments to more clearly define and ensure accreditation compliance, and (2) leaders in both departments should be reminded that they are guardians of the public trust and that it is their responsibility to ensure that public funds are spent in a cost-effective and appropriate manner.

Fire Chief Mette will be meeting with senior staff regarding measures that can be taken to ensure that this directive is implemented throughout the District. As required by law, Counsel Chavez will notify the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court in writing of the steps taken by the District to implement the second recommendation in the matter.

Director Trujillo stated he did not agree with the Grand Jury that if you get caught, you only have to pay it back. He felt it was fraud and thought we are sending a bad message to the men and women who get their diplomas the right way.

Director Granados commended Fire Chief Mette for taking an aggressive stance in resolving the diploma issue. The action this District took was much more severe than other agencies that experienced the same problem.

General Counsel Chavez clarified the record and read the Grand Jury Report section regarding the discipline imposed on the five employees in this matter.

- Updated the Board on the sale of former Fire Station No. 29. The renovation and improvement work has been completed. He outlined the surplus property sales procedure and the notification process to governmental entities within the County. The notification letters will be mailed tomorrow. If an acceptable offer is not received from a governmental entity after expiration of a 60-day period from date of the letter, the property can be marketed to the general public.

FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 522 REPORT

- Captain Pat Monahan representing Local 522 extended appreciation to the Board members who made it out to Fire Camp. The donations received were appreciated to keep this beneficial program afloat.
- AB 155 is moving forward. The bill is trying to create a regulatory commission to identify the ability of cities and counties to file bankruptcy.
- Attended Western States last week which provides an opportunity for unions to get together and discuss language for proposed legislation. Unfortunately, many are facing the same financial difficulties that we are but we are better off than most. He commended the Board, Administration, and all personnel for recognizing the financial difficulties we are encountering and working together.
- July began our first month of temporary rank reduction employees with the closure of the three stations. Rank will be upgraded when retirements occur.

- Appreciated the Grand Jury for commending the District and taking the right action on the educational issue. The five individuals that took part in that process did not try to intentionally defraud the District. It was addressed when we found out about it. The people paid the price and it is time to move on.

BATTALION CHIEFS LOCAL 150 REPORT

- Battalion Chief Walt White stated we had our initial meeting with four other fire agencies to look at a functional consolidation of all five training, health and safety divisions. Acknowledged Directors Goold and Granados for their support.
- Today was Bill Lobsitz' last day on the job. He was a long-standing member of the Training Division and was featured today in a web based story from the California Professional Firefighters on the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's Training Division.
- Acknowledged the Board and the Community Risk Reduction Division for the outreach program of Fire Camp.

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS:**Executive Committee—(Lawson)**

- Next Meeting: Friday, July 17, 2009 at 8:00 AM

Communications Center Delegate—(Valley)

- Next Meeting: July 28, 2009 – 10:30 AM

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority—(Kelly)

- Next Meeting: September 2, 2009 – 10:00 AM

Finance Committee—(Granados)

- Reported on today's meeting. Congratulated personnel for the continued reduction in expenditures.
- Next Meeting: August 13, 2009 – 5:00 PM

Policy Committee—(Valley)

- Next Meeting: July 23, 2009 – 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**Valley:**

- He received some information that a group is trying to tax all public retirement benefits. This sends a wrong message that we are out to get this group of people and you are not worth what we are paying you.

Kelly:

- Enjoyed hearing the reports on Fire Camp which he attended during the last three days. Both Brenda Briggs and Pat Plexico organized it with the help of volunteers, recruits from Fire and Rescue Training, and firefighting personnel. It is a program that is vital to teaching young people about the work Metro Fire does. Commended all of the volunteers.
- Happy to see the Metro Fire Association at La Sierra High School on July 4th for the fireworks. Metro was well represented at this large community event. This was a donation by the Association to augment the fireworks program. Approximately \$3,500 was donated to the Burn Center.

Trujillo:

- Thanked staff and Debbie Martin for their reports.
- Thanked the men and women in the fire service for the job they do day in and day out because they are the best.
- Congratulated the men and women who took the time to study and work hard for their diplomas.

Goold:

- Fire Camp was fantastic and we must continue to support it. Congratulated the Fire Camp graduates. Commended the men and women who take time out to energize these children.
- Kudos to the Training Chiefs in this region for looking at opportunities to establish regional fire training to make things more consistent and standardized and for undertaking this challenge.

Granados:

- The Finance Committee met tonight and the personnel here have done an unbelievable job. We have made changes and taken cuts. In view of the State budget and employee cuts, all these things have hit the District in the bottom line. Commended everyone for what they are doing.

Lawson:

- Thanked the staff for their reports and echoed the many sentiments of the other directors.
- An issue of concern at the Station 32 meeting was the consensus of people who did not realize they had a station closure. This was a decision that did not happen overnight. There have been severe cuts in wages and beneficial programs. It was necessary to make some solid decisions to maintain the current services. After much discussion, we ended up with three station closures. We are lobbying to maintain Proposition 1A (2004) but if we lose the funding of approximately \$9.6 million, there will be more cuts. We are all trying to maintain the services and pull forward in a positive manner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:**Risk Mitigation in Rollingwood Area**

Hal Hillmann of Orangevale stated the time and distance requirement was met when the closure was made. The issue in his mind and that of the community is the lack of mitigation of the fire risk in the area. He left a previous DVD showing evidence of the risk involved and related an incident on July 4th that caused a tree to come down. An attempt to remove the debris meets no standard whatsoever. He provided the Board Clerk with an additional DVD for the record and distributed copies of the pictures to the Board depicting the areas with excessive debris. He found out from the Department of Transportation that the property in question is owned by the State who should take care of it and felt the District should make a management decision and not ignore the issue.

Director Trujillo stated he has agreed to meet with Mr. Hillmann who is his constituent.

Director Jones stated the concern is an issue of defensible space and recommended appropriate notices be sent to the responsible property owners encouraging appropriate action be taken to maintain defensible space.

There being a general consensus, Board President Lawson requested Chief Eastman or Chief Miller in his absence to take care of the issue and report back at the next Board meeting.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION 6:10 PM

[Taken Out of Order prior to Consent Agenda]

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION 6:33 PM

Report by General Counsel Chavez:

CLOSED SESSION GOVERNMENT CODES:**1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL–EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(a) – Three (3) Cases

- A. John de Graaff
Claim #2009089412

The Board was briefed and granted the District's Third Party Workers' Compensation Administrator settlement authority in this matter.

- B. Michael Castagnola (Workers' Compensation) – Attorney Colin Connor
Claim #2004026347

The Board was briefed and granted the District's Third Party Workers' Compensation Administrator settlement authority in this matter.

- C. Michael Castagnola (Industrial Disability)
Claim #2004026347

No decision was made by the Board and there was a general consensus to table the matter to the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Thomas J. Lawson, President

D'Elman Clark, Secretary

Charlotte Tilson, Clerk of the Board